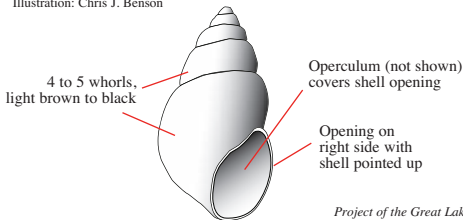




# Faucet Snail WATCH

## How to Identify Faucet Snail (*Bithynia tentaculata*)

Illustration: Chris J. Benson



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network based on a  
grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## General Characteristics

- Up to 1/2" (1.3 cm) long
- Found on rocky shorelines, river and lake bottoms, aquatic vegetation, and docks
- Difficult to distinguish from native snails or immature invasive mystery snails

## ***Faucet Snail***

Faucet snails (*Bithynia tentaculata*) are small invaders that threaten waterfowl, food webs, and may clog water intakes. They host three intestinal flukes that can kill scaup, coots, and other waterfowl that consume them. Native to Europe, they were first found in the Great Lakes in the 1870s, likely spread with solid ballast used in large timber transport ships or by contaminated vegetation used in packing crates. Faucet snails quickly spread to inland waters, often reaching high densities and outcompeting native snails.

Faucet snails are found in the Great Lakes, in some inland waters in provinces and states bordering the Great Lakes, in Lake Champlain south to Washington, D.C., in some lakes in Montana, and in the Mississippi River near LaCrosse, WI. They can spread by attaching to aquatic plants, boats, anchors, decoy anchors, and other recreational equipment. Faucet snails can close their shells allowing them to survive out of water for days. Eradicating infestations is nearly impossible. Your actions and your help in reporting new infestations are vital for preventing their spread.

## ***What you can do***

- **Learn** to recognize faucet snails (see back cover).
- **Clean** off aquatic plants, animals, and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts and other recreational gear left in lakes.
- **Drain** water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving water access – drain bilge, live and baitwell by removing drain plugs.
- **Dispose** of unwanted plants, live bait, worms and fish parts in the trash.
- **Rinse** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure hot water **AND/OR**
- **Dry** everything for 5 days or more **OR wipe** with a towel before reuse.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed container with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program in Manitowoc, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR in Madison, (608) 266-6437; or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland, (715) 682-6185.

## ***REMINDER: Know the rules!***

**Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession and transport of invasive aquatic plants and animals. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish, or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.**